Karachi and is being allowed to conduct his underworld activities from Pakistan.

It is well known that Pakistan, as part of its policy of sponsoring cross-border terrorism in India, has been providing refuge and safe havens to known criminals and terrorists responsible for heinous crimes in India. Government have on numerous occasions called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India, and to arrest and extradite these criminals and terrorists so that they can be brought to justice. During the July 2001 Agra Summit, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee also raised this issue with the President of Pakistan. Prime Minister noted that terrorists and criminals responsible for heinous crimes in India including the Mumbai bomb blasts in 1993, as also the hijacking of IC 814, were living in Pakistan. He asked that they should be arrested and handed over to India so that they could be brought to justice. During his meeting with President Musharraf, on 14th July, 2001, Home Minister Shri L.K. Advani had raised this issue with the Pakistan President.

Assault on Indian Diplomat in Pakistan

1904. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item titled "Indian High Commission employee beaten up" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times,' New Delhi dated the 9th November, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of Indian officials beaten up, tortured, harassed by the Pakistan intelligence officials during the last three years; and

(c) what action Government have contemplated to lodge protests in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Year-wise break-up of incidents involving harassment, assault, intimidation and break-ins at the residences of Indian Officials etc. in Pakistan is as follow:

(i) 1999 : 18

(ii) 2000 : 22

(iii) 2001 : 16 (up to 1.12.2001)

(c) The safety and security of the High Commission and its personnel is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and the bitateral Code of Conduct of Treatment of Diplomatic/ Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan.

While protesting strongly .against the incidents of assault, harassment etc. of its officials in Islamabad, Government has time and again reminded Pakistan of its obligations udner the Vienna Convention as well as the bilateral Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan. Government are committed to taking all necessary measures to ensure the welfare and well-being of their personnel posted in Missions abroad.

Missile shield for India

1905. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:

DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated October 29, 2001, captioned "Putin clears missile shield for India";

(b) if so, the details of the proposal to build a missile shield for India as approved by the Russian President; and

(c) Government's reaction and response to the proposed missile shield?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news story is not factually correct.

(c) Does not arise.